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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

STATE FOR AF/S, AF/EX, HR/OE  
NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JFRAZER  
TREASURY FOR ED BARBER AND C WILKINSON  
USDOC FOR 2037 DIEMOND  
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER  
RIO FOR WEISSMAN  
PRETORIA PASS AG ATTACHE HELM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: MADE'S STATEMENT RE: LAND REFORM: MORE OF THE  
SAME

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[11.](#) (SBU) Summary: In a press statement on April 12, 2002, Minister of Agriculture Joseph Made clarified the GOZ's stance on the conduct of its land resettlement program. While much of the statement merely repeated the ruling party's rhetoric, portions revealed some of the GOZ's more subtle intentions. Made indicated that the GOZ will continue to target white farmers, regardless of nationality. Simultaneously, the statement carved out an exemption to maximum farm size for black indigenous farmers and those A2 program farmers -- primarily ruling party cronies -- who have already seized prime properties. Made's statement also indicated a desire to return to a command economy, with certain crops "emphasized," production targets established, and price structures dictated by the GOZ. The statement warned white commercial farmers to halt what is labeled the destruction of infrastructure on acquired farms (by the removal of irrigation and other movable farm equipment), despite the terms of the law and the Abuja Agreement that allows such assets to be removed. In closing, Made assured all that there will be "no going back" on the land reform program. End summary.

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Acquisition Notices  
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[12.](#) (SBU) Made's statement began with a review of the effect of receipt of both Section 5 (preliminary) notices and Section 8 (acquisition) notices. Throughout, the statement also includes a clear subtext that warns and admonishes white farmers whose property is targeted. In the segment regarding Section 5 notices, Made noted that after receiving such a notice, the landowner shall not: subdivide the property, make any further permanent improvements, dispose of the property, damage the property, or carry out any other activities which sabotage the smooth implementation of the land reform program. In the segment regarding Section 8 notices, Made stated that "White commercial farmers must stand warned that government will not tolerate interference of the operations of the newly settled farmer." These statements lay the groundwork for Made's subsequent quantum leap whereby irrigation equipment, tractors, and even farm vehicles are interpreted as belonging to the land, and whose removal therefore constitutes both sabotage against the land reform program and interference with the operations of newly settled farmers.

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Maximum Farm Size  
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[13.](#) (SBU) The statement also addressed the maximum farm size issue. Made's statement indicated that all farms, even those not gazetted for compulsory acquisition, would be sub-divided to comply with the maximum farm size limits. There are a few exempt categories, most of which are political. In addition to exempting state lands, church/mission lands, and lands belonging to educational institutions, the maximum size initiative will exempt those properties owned by black indigenous farmers and properties where A1/A2 allocations have already taken place. Anecdotal reports from commercial farmers, as well as newspaper reports, indicate that many of the A2 "settlers" are actually Zanu-PF officials or military officers grabbing large chunks of prime land for their personal benefit.

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Claims of Sabotage by Commercial Farmers  
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[14.](#) (SBU) Made claimed that he had received reports of commercial farmers deliberately destroying infrastructure in order to frustrate government efforts to grow a winter crop. In addition to equating removal of irrigation equipment with

sabotage, Made made a spurious claim that commercial farmers have sprayed sugarcane plantations with harmful chemicals and deliberately infected cattle with diseases. What facts these claims are based on were left unrevealed. Other parts of the statement emphasize that anything on a farm, movable, immovable, perishable or not, must stay on the property when the commercial farmer is evicted. Made stated that no departing farmer would be granted an export permit to remove "farm equipment," a term which he now uses interchangeably with "infrastructure".

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Ministry Civil Servants  
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15. (SBU) In the statement Made also claimed that he was aware that some lower-level government personnel were acting in concert with commercial farmers to derail and delay the land reform program. His message was that heads will roll if such practices continue. Commercial farmers tell us that they wish such were the case, but no one, not even the local police they have known for years, is willing to stand up for rights or principles or in the path of the illegal and still violent juggernaut.

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Statement Conclusion  
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16. (SBU) Made concluded that the Land Reform and Agrarian Reform program is well crafted, as it is based upon studies that show Zimbabwe has land that is under-utilized and virgin. Made righteously pronounced that the land re-distribution program would "ensure that agricultural production is never again in the hands of a few who under-utilise or hold to ransom the means of food security, employment creation, and economic growth," a line unashamedly cribbed from the President's speech book. This oratory contrasts starkly with the reality of the exercise, as productive land is seized, looted, divided, and returned to subsistence practices that will result in environmental degradation and massive food shortfalls. The country's agricultural sector has already devolved from a self-sustaining profitable enterprise, which earned much of Zimbabwe's forex, to a wounded and crippled activity with tens of thousands of displaced workers and a reduced ability to feed the population.

SULLIVAN